

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00240 241731Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 PM-04 SS-15 /030 W
-----241738Z 082018 /42

O 241455Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3245

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0240

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, OAS, NS
SUBJ: VISIT BY CHAIRMAN OF INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD TO
SURINAM

1. LATE MARCH 23 EMBASSY PARAMARIBO DUTY OFFICER RECEIVED A
TELEPHONE CALL FROM A COLONEL MURPHY (OF IADB) ADVISING
THAT LTGEN GORDON SUMNER, CHAIRMAN OF IADB, WILL BE VISITING
SURINAM APRIL 13-15 AT INVITATION OF GOS AND WOULD CALL ON
AMBASSADOR WHILE HERE. EMBASSY HAD HAD NO PREVIOUS INTIMATION
THAT ANY SUCH VISIT WAS BEING CONSIDERED.

2. CHECK WITH THE DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OF GENERAL AND FOREIGN
AFFAIRS INDICATES GOS'S UNDERSTANDING OF MATTER AS FOLLOWS:
DURING MEETING IN WASHINGTON IN FEBRUARY IN CONNECTION WITH
SURINAM'S ADMISSION TO OAS, IT WAS MENTIONED TO ACTING DEFENSE
MINISTER HOOST THAT GENERAL SUMNER WOULD BE MAKING A TRIP TO
ARGENTINA IN APRIL AND THAT HE COULD STOP IN SURINAM ON THE
WAY IF GOS WOULD LIKE THAT; HOOST AGREED ON THE SPOT, AND GENERAL
SUMNER LATER INFORMED GOS OF DATES WHEN HE WOULD BE HERE.
GENERAL SUMNER WILL BE GUEST OF ACTING MINISTER OF DEFENSE
WHILE IN SURINAM.

3. THIS EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION
OR OTHER REPORT FROM WASHINGTON OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN IADB
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OFFICERS AND MINISTER HOOST. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER CHAIRMAN OF
IADB IS INDEPENDENT OR SUBJECT TO USG AUTHORITY. IF THE LATTER,
THEN IT IS WRONG, IN OUR VIEW, FOR A SENIOR AMERICAN MILITARY
OFFICER TO PROPOSE OR ACCEPT AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO A FOREIGN
COUNTRY WITHOUT CONCURRENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. IF
CONCURRENCE WAS NOT OBTAINED, THEN WE SUGGEST THE DEPARTMENT
OUGHT TO ASSERT ITS PRIMACY IN SUCH MATTERS. IF IN FACT THE

DEPARTMENT WAS AWARE OF AND CONCURRED IN THESE PLANS, THEN WE CAN ONLY EXPRESS SADNESS THAT IT WAS NOT THOUGHT WORTHWHILE TO KEEP THE EMBASSY INFORMED OF THIS SIGNIFICANT MATTER, MUCH LESS ASK OUR OPINION.

4. A VISIT BY AN AMERICAN THREE-STAR GENERAL, IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD, WILL BE ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL ACTS OF THE U.S. VIS-A-VIS THIS COUNTRY SINCE IT GAINED ITS INDEPENDENCE. THE IMPLICATIONS WHICH WILL BE DRAWN BY SURINAMERS AS WELL AS BY OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA AS TO DEFENSE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SURINAM AND THE U.S. AND THE OAS WILL BE SIGNIFICANT. SURINAMERS, BOTH THOSE WHO FAVOR AND THOSE WHO OPPOSE DEFENSE TIES WITH THE U.S., WILL READ IT IN THAT LIGHT, AND THE SUSPICIONS OF OTHERS, HOWEVER MISGUIDED, WILL AGAIN BE RAISED. IT MAY WELL BE THAT THESE FACTORS HAVE BEEN GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION IN THE DEPARTMENT AND THAT IT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED THAT THEY ARE IN FACT IN ACCORD WITH U.S. POLICY. IF THAT IS THE CASE, THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED AND WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO ASSIST IN CARRYING OUT THE E POLICY ACTIONS. IF NOT, THEN WE REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT TAKE AN URGENT LOOK AT THIS INTENDED VISIT AND ITS EFFECT ON OUR RELATIONS IN THE REGION.
ZURHELLEN

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